



## Arts for Roma Children

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### Abstract

This paper outlines the basic principles of the methodology created for the European LLP KA1 funded project Art4rom and focuses on the importance of arts integration in learning and how to integrate and promote art and creativity into the everyday life.

Art and creativity are considered the new economy levers and their impact and effect on economic development are valued as a vital contribution for economic growth, tourism development, population policy, cultural capital of citizens.

The use of arts in education is considered by UNESCO “a tool for equipping students with knowledge and skills across the curriculum to stimulate cognitive development and encourage innovative and creative thinking, inventiveness and critical skills” [1] and at the same time “the art in education approach is explained using the concept of “multiple intelligences”, reflecting the belief that there are many kinds of intelligence and a number of ways of learning” [2].

Recent developments in cognitive science and neuroscience help explain the power of the arts. These developments have shown that “the mind is embodied”—that brain and body make up a single, fully integrated cognitive system.[3]

Art integration programs demonstrated how through the art is possible to empower each individual to actualize their creativity and critical thinking skills that are necessary for developing potential paths for our future. The children as future citizens should gain those skills that will enable them to develop and improve problem solving and decision taking attitudes, and more over these skills will open the psychological and intellectual horizons towards new prospective of personal and collective happiness.

The European project « art4ROM » promoted by the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation is a LLP KA1 funded project that aims to foster Roma populations’ social inclusion by using a methodology where art is a key component to support education for Roma children.

In three different European member states Roma children will be involved into concrete innovative workshops using arts for enhancing learning. The opportunity of engaging Roma and non-Roma with the wider community through art education will lead to the improvement of their access to education and better life learning chances. This will address many transversal key competencies as well as bringing creativity through artistic expression and learning to learn, widening the range of their skills and competences, favouring an entrepreneurship spirit.

The ultimate goal of the project is to create a platform gathering the good artistic practices highlighting the Roma and their thousand-year-old culture, and to ensure a wider European visibility to promote innovation and best practices exchange for Roma’s inclusion through the practice of arts.

### References

- [1] United Nations Educational, Scientific And Cultural Organization. (2001). Universal Declaration of Culture Diversity. art1
- [2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, For education in the arts and creativity in primary and secondary schools. (2003).
- [3] N. Rabkin, R.Redmond The arts make a difference, Educational Leadership, February 2006 | Volume 63 | Number 5